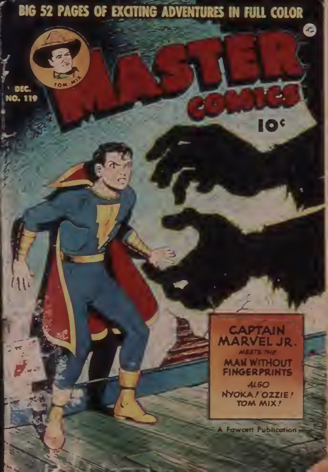
BIG 52 PAGES OF EXCITING ADVENTURES IN FULL COLOR



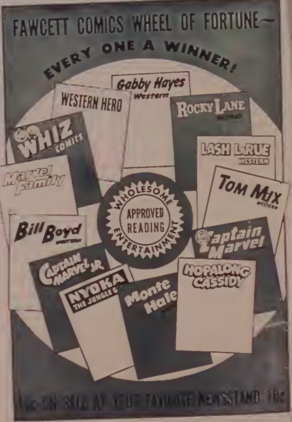
MASTER COMICS

DEC.
NO. 119

10¢

CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.
MEETS THE
MAN WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS
ALSO
NYOKA! OZZIE!
TOM MIX!

A Fawcett Publication


FAWCETT COMICS WHEEL OF FORTUNE—
EVERY ONE A WINNER!
Gabby Hayes Western
WESTERN HERO
ROCKY LANE
WHIZ COMICS
LASH LARUE WESTERN
Marvel Family
TOM MIX WESTERN
WHOLESOME APPROVED READING ENTERTAINMENT
Bill Boyd WESTERN
Captain Marvel
CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.
HOPALONG CASSIDY
NYOKA THE JUNGLE GIRL
Monte Hale
10c ON SALE AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND 10c

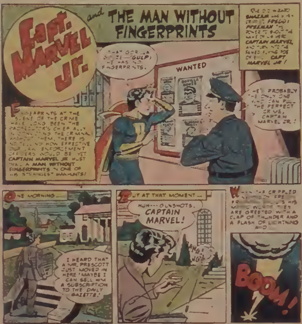
MASTER COMICS • Executive Editor WILL LIEBERSON • Editor V. A. PROVENSANO • Art Editor AL JETTER

APPROVED READING

The following outstanding magazines are easily identified on their covers by the words A FAWCETT PUBLICATION.

CAPT. MARVEL ADVENTURES • LASH LARUE WESTERN • THE MARVEL FAMILY • FAWCETT'S FUNNY ANIMALS • WHIZ COMICS • WESTERN HERO • ROCKY LANE WESTERN • NYOKA THE JUNGLE GIRL • GABBY HAYES WESTERN • CAPT. MARVEL JR. • MASTER COMICS • TOM MIX WESTERN • MONTE HALE WESTERN • HOPALONG CASSIDY • ROD CAMERON WESTERN • BILL BOYD WESTERN • SIX-GUN HEROES • SMILEY BURNETTE WESTERN

Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment. W. H. Fawcett, Jr., President


Capt. Marvel Jr.
and THE MAN WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS
THE OLD WIZARD SHAZAM GAVE A CRIPPLED NEWSBOY, FREDDY FREEMAN, THE POWER TO BECOME, WHEN HE SPEAKS THE NAME OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, AND TURN INTO THE FAMED FLYING FOE OF EVIL, CAPT. MARVEL JR.!
THAT GORILLA GEEZE—(GULP) HE HAS NO FINGERPRINTS.
WANTED
HE'S PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PULL THE PERFECT CRIME, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.!
FINGERPRINTS AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME HAVE LONG BEEN THE PROSECUTOR'S CHIEF ALLY IN CONVICTING THE CRIMINAL. WITHOUT THEM, THERE IS NO TELLING HOW EFFECTIVE OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WOULD BE. YET CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. MUST TRAIL A MAN WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS IN ONE OF HIS STRANGEST MANHUNTS!
ONE MORNING...
I HEARD THAT A MR. PRESCOTT JUST MOVED IN HERE! MAYBE I CAN SELL HIM A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE DAILY GAZETTE!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT...
HUH--- GUNSHOTS. CAPTAIN MARVEL!
BANG! BANG!
WHEN THE CRIPPLED NEWSBOY FREDDY FREEMAN SPEAKS HIS MAGIC WORD THEY ARE GREETED WITH A CLAP OF THUNDER AND A FLASH OF LIGHTNING AND...
BOOM!

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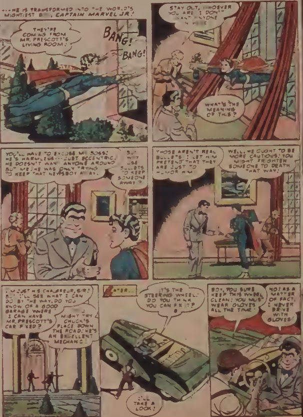
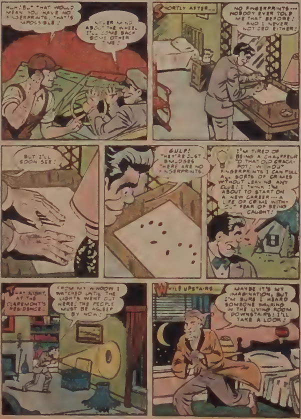
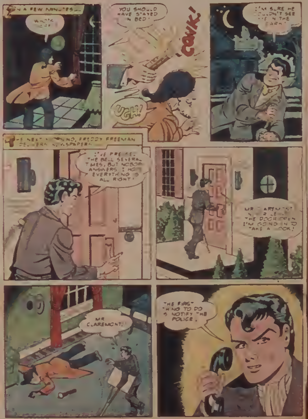
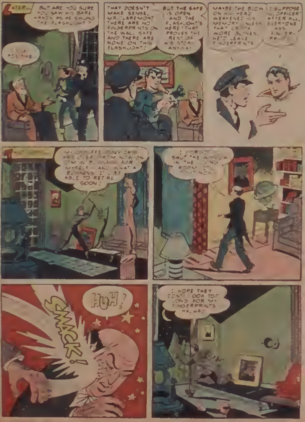
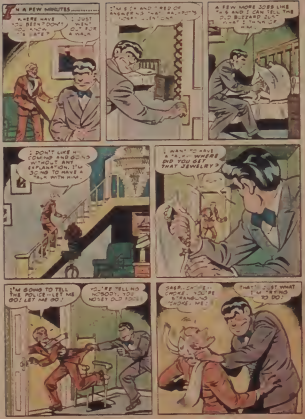
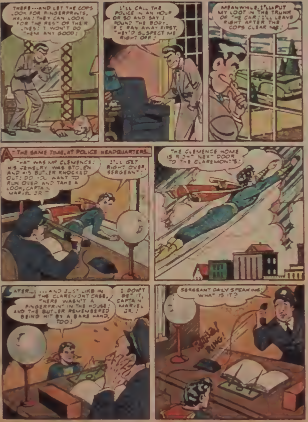

...HE IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.!
THEY'RE COMING FROM MR. PRESCOTT'S LIVING ROOM!
BANG!
BANG!
STAY OUT, WHOEVER YOU ARE! I DON'T WANT ANYONE IN HERE!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MY BOSS! HE'S HARMLESS---JUST ECCENTRIC. HE DOESN'T WANT ANYONE AROUND BUT ME. HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO KEEP THAT NEWSBOY AWAY.
BUT WHY USE BULLETS TO KEEP SOMEONE AWAY?
THOSE AREN'T REAL BULLETS! I LET HIM PRETEND THAT THEY ARE JUST TO HUMOR HIM.
WELL, HE OUGHT TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS! YOU MIGHT FRIGHTEN SOMEONE TO DEATH THAT WAY!
I'M JUST HIS CHAUFFEUR, SIR! BUT I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO. BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW OF A GOOD GARAGE WHERE I CAN HAVE MR. PRESCOTT'S CAR FIXED?
YOU MIGHT TRY CHUCK'S PLACE DOWN THE ROAD! HE'S AN EXCELLENT MECHANIC!
LATER...
IT'S THE STEERING WHEEL! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIX IT?
I'LL TAKE A LOOK!
BOY, YOU SURE KEEP THIS WHEEL CLEAN! YOU MUST WEAR GLOVES ALL THE TIME!
NO! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I NEVER DRIVE WITH GLOVES!

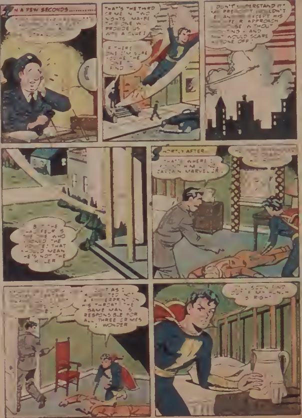

HUH! BUT THAT WOULD MEAN YOU HAVE NO FINGERPRINTS. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NEVER MIND ABOUT THE WHEEL. I'LL COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME!
SHORTLY AFTER...
NO FINGERPRINTS--- NOBODY EVER TOLD ME THAT BEFORE! AND I NEVER NOTICED EITHER!
BUT I'LL SOON SEE!
GULP! THEY'RE JUST SMUDGES THERE ARE NO FINGERPRINTS.
I'M TIRED OF BEING A CHAUFFEUR TO THAT OLD CRACK-POT! WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS I CAN PULL ALL SORTS OF CRIMES WITHOUT LEAVING ANY CLUE! I THINK I'M ABOUT TO START ON A NEW CAREER--- A LIFE OF CRIME WITH-OUT FEAR OF BEING CAUGHT!
THAT NIGHT, AT THE CLAREMONT'S RESIDENCE...
FROM MY WINDOW I WATCHED UNTIL THE LIGHTS WENT OUT HERE! THE PEOPLE MUST BE ASLEEP BY NOW!
WHILE UPSTAIRS...
MAYBE IT'S MY IMAGINATION, BUT I'M SURE I HEARD SOMEONE WALKING IN THE LIVING ROOM DOWNSTAIRS! I'LL TAKE A LOOK!

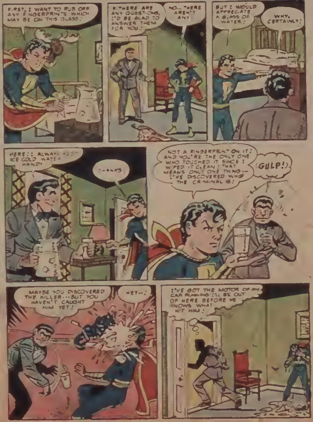

IN A FEW MINUTES...
WHAT'S HERE?
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN BED!
CONK!
UGH!
I'M SURE HE COULDN'T SEE ME IN THE DARK!
THE NEXT MORNING, FREDDY FREEMAN DELIVERS NEWSPAPERS...
I'VE PRESSED THE BELL SEVERAL TIMES, BUT NOBODY ANSWERS! I HOPE EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT!
MR. CLAREMONT NEVER LEAVES THE DOOR OPEN! I'M GOING IN TO TAKE A LOOK!
MR. CLAREMONT!
THE FIRST THING TO DO IS NOTIFY THE POLICE.

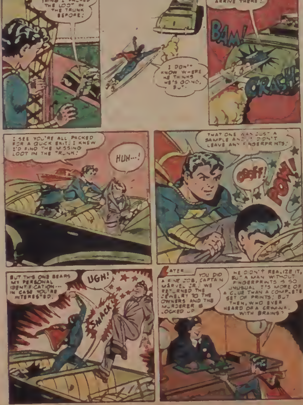

LATER—
BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU SAW HIS BARE HANDS AS HE SWUNG THE FLASHLIGHT?
I'M POSITIVE
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, MR. CLAREMONT. THERE ARE NO FINGERPRINTS ON THE WALL SAFE AND THERE ARE NONE ON THIS FLASHLIGHT!
BUT THE SAFE IS OPEN AND THE FLASHLIGHT'S HERE! THAT PROVES THE REST OF HIS STORY ANYWAY.
MAYBE THE BLOW ON HIS HEAD WEAKENED HIS MEMORY. UNLESS THAT CROOK WORE GLOVES, HE'D LEAVE FINGERPRINTS
I SUPPOSE SO, OFFICER! AFTER ALL, EVERYONE HAS FINGERPRINTS
MY COFFEE [illegible] THE CASH FROM NOW ON [illegible] FOR MYSELF AND WHAT A BUSINESS [illegible] BE ABLE TO RETIRE SOON!
I FORGOT TO SHUT THE WINDOW IN THE LIVING ROOM. [illegible] IT NOW.
SMACK!
HUH?
I HOPE THEY DON'T LOOK TOO LONG FOR MY FINGERPRINTS HA, HA.

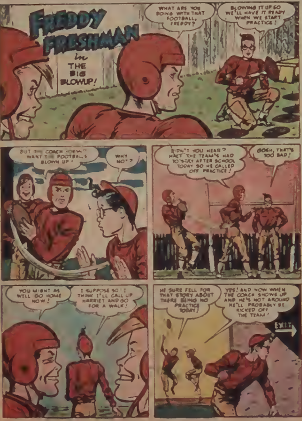

IN A FEW MINUTES............
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S LATE?
I JUST WENT OUT FOR A WALK
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF ANSWERING THAT BALDPOT'S NOSEY QUESTIONS
A FEW MORE JOBS LIKE THIS AND I CAN TELL THE OLD BUZZARD JUST WHAT I THINK OF HIM.
I DON'T LIKE HIS COMING AND GOING WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION. I'M GOING TO HAVE A TALK WITH HIM.
I WANT TO HAVE A TALK-- WHERE DID YOU GET THAT JEWELRY?
I'M GOING TO TELL THE POLICE--LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
YOU'RE TELLING NOBODY, YOU NOSEY OLD FOOL!
GASP.. CHOKE.. CHOKE. YOU'RE STRANGLING CHOKE, ME!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO!

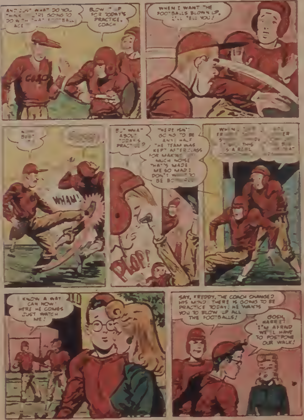

THERE---AND LET THE COPS LOOK FOR FINGERPRINTS. HA, HA! THEY CAN LOOK FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES! IT WON'T DO THEM ANY GOOD!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE IN AN HOUR OR SO AND SAY I FOUND THE BODY. IF I RAN AWAY FIRST, THEY'D SUSPECT ME RIGHT OFF!
MEANWHILE, I'LL PUT MY LOOT IN THE TRUNK OF THE CAR! I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AFTER THE COPS CLEAR ME!
AT THE SAME TIME, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS
THAT WAS MR CLEMENCE! HIS JEWELRY WAS STOLEN AND HIS BUTLER KNOCKED OUT! DO YOU WANT TO RUN OVER AND TAKE A LOOK, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.?
I'LL GET RIGHT OVER, SERGEANT!
THE CLEMENCE HOME IS RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO THE CLAREMONT'S!
LATER...
...AND JUST LIKE IN THE CLAREMONT CASE, THERE WASN'T A FINGERPRINT IN THE HOUSE! AND THE BUTLER REMEMBERED BEING HIT BY A BARE HAND, TOO!
I DON'T GET IT, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.!
RING! RING!
SERGEANT DALY SPEAKING! WHAT IS IT?

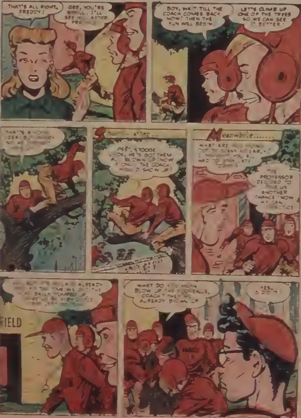

IN A FEW SECONDS........
THAT'S THE THIRD CRIME IN TWO NIGHTS. MAYBE THIS ONE WILL PROVIDE US WITH A CLUE!
IF THERE IS ONE I'M SURE YOU'RE THE ONE TO FIND IT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. MR. PRESCOTT WOULDN'T ... EXCEPT HIS ... FEAR APPROACH ... WITHOUT ... AND THAT WOULD SCARE ANYONE OFF!
BUT THE HALL FELLER'S THE ONE WHO FOUND THE BODY! THAT WOULD MEAN HE'S NOT THE KILLER
SHORTLY AFTER...
THAT'S WHERE I FOUND HIM LYING, CAPTAIN MARVEL, SIR.
JUST AS I FIGURED! NO FINGERPRINTS ON HIS THROAT! THE SAME MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THREE CRIMES, I WONDER
I'LL SOON FIND OUT IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT

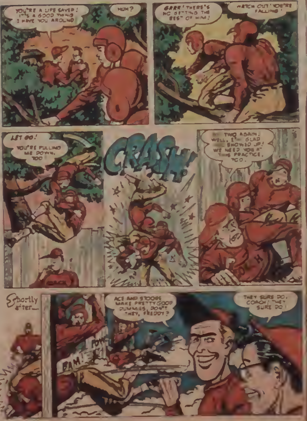

FIRST, I WANT TO RUB OFF ANY FINGERPRINTS WHICH MAY BE ON THIS GLASS!
IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS, I'D BE GLAD TO ANSWER THEM FOR YOU!
NO... THERE AREN'T ANY
BUT I WOULD APPRECIATE A GLASS OF WATER!
WHY, CERTAINLY!
HERE! I ALWAYS KEEP ICE COLD WATER HANDY
THANKS
NOT A FINGERPRINT ON IT! AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO TOUCHED IT SINCE I WIPED IT CLEAN! THAT MEANS ONLY ONE THING-- I'VE DISCOVERED WHO THE CRIMINAL IS!
(GULP!)
MAYBE YOU DISCOVERED THE KILLER---BUT YOU HAVEN'T CAUGHT HIM YET!
HEY--!
I'VE GOT THE MOTOR OF MY CAR RUNNING! I'LL BE OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE KNOWS WHAT HIT HIM!


IT'S A GOOD THING I PACKED THE LOOT IN THE TRUNK BEFORE!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE THINKS HE'S GOING, BUT...
...HE'S CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO ARRIVE THERE!
BAM!
CRASH!
I SEE YOU'RE ALL PACKED FOR A QUICK EXIT! I KNEW I'D FIND THE MISSING LOOT IN THE TRUNK!
HUH...!
THAT ONE WAS JUST A SAMPLE AND I DON'T LEAVE ANY FINGERPRINTS!
OOFF!
POW!
BUT THIS ONE BEARS MY PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION... IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED.
UGH!
SMACK!
LATER
YOU DID A FINE JOB, CAPTAIN MARVEL, JR. WE RETURNED THE JEWELRY TO THE OWNERS AND THE MURDERER IS LOCKED UP.
HE DIDN'T REALIZE IT, BUT A MAN WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS IS SO UNUSUAL IT'S MORE OF A CLUE THAN A COMPLETE SET OF PRINTS! BUT THEN, WHO EVER HEARD OF A CRIMINAL WITH BRAINS?

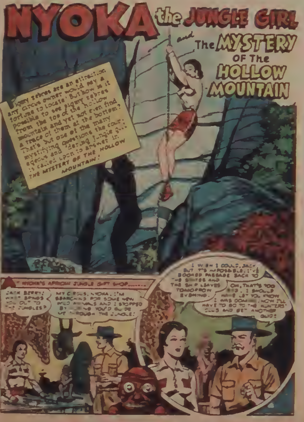

FREDDY FRESHMAN
in
THE BIG BLOWUP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT FOOTBALL, FREDDY?
BLOWING IT UP SO WE'LL HAVE IT READY WHEN WE START PRACTICE!
BUT THE COACH DOESN'T WANT THE FOOTBALLS BLOWN UP!
WHY NOT?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? HALF THE TEAM'S HAD TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL TODAY SO HE CALLED OFF PRACTICE!
GOSH, THAT'S TOO BAD!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME NOW!
I SUPPOSE SO! I THINK I'LL CALL UP HARRIET AND GO FOR A WALK!
HE SURE FELL FOR THAT STORY ABOUT THERE BEING NO PRACTICE TODAY!
YES! AND NOW WHEN THE COACH SHOWS UP AND HE'S NOT AROUND HE'LL PROBABLY BE KICKED OFF THE TEAM!
EXIT

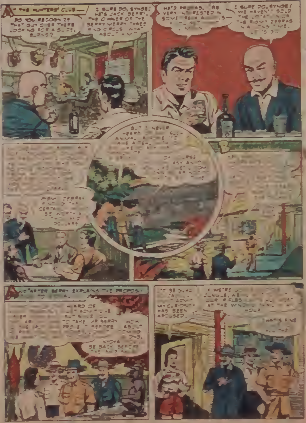

AND JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO WITH THAT FOOTBALL, ACE?
BLOW IT UP FOR TODAY'S PRACTICE, COACH
COACH
WHEN I WANT THE FOOTBALLS BLOWN UP, I'LL TELL YOU!
WHAM!
BUT WHAT ABOUT TODAY'S PRACTICE?
THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY! HALF THE TEAM WAS KEPT AFTER CLASS FOR MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE. THAT'S MADE ME SO MAD I DON'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED!
PLOP!
IS A REAL
I KNOW A WAY I CAN NOW! HERE HE COMES. JUST WATCH ME!
SAY, FREDDY, THE COACH CHANGED HIS MIND. THERE IS GOING TO BE PRACTICE TODAY! HE WANTS YOU TO BLOW UP ALL THE FOOTBALLS!
GOSH, HARRIET! I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR WALK!

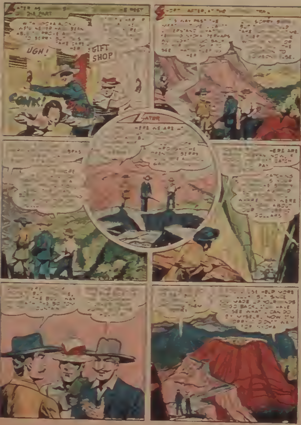

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, FREDDY!
GEE, YOU'RE SWELL. I'LL SEE YOU AFTER PRACTICE
BOY, WAIT TILL THE COACH COMES BACK NOW! THEN THE FUN WILL BEGIN.
LET'S CLIMB UP ONE OF THE TREES SO WE CAN SEE BETTER!
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA
Soon after...
PSST, STOOGE ... HE'S GOT THEM ALL BLOWN UP NOW ... ONLY THE COACH WOULD SHOW UP!
Meanwhile.......
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF CLASS SO EARLY? I THOUGHT YOU ALL HAD TO STAY LATE TODAY!
THE PROFESSOR DECIDED TO GIVE US ANOTHER CHANCE! NOW WE CAN PRACTICE
... ALREADY ... THE BALLS PUMPED UP ...
FIELD
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BLOW UP THE FOOTBALLS, COACH? THEY'RE ALREADY BLOWN UP
YES, I DID!

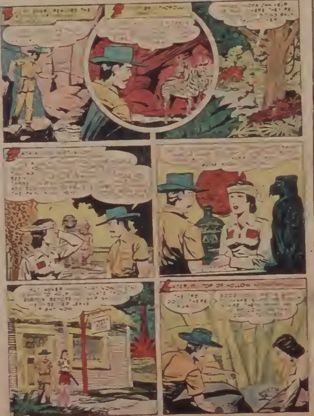

YOU'RE A LIFE SAVER! IT'S A GOOD THING I HAVE YOU AROUND
HUH?
GRRR! THERE'S NO GETTING THE BEST OF HIM!
WATCH OUT! YOU'RE FALLING!
LET GO!
YOU'RE PULLING ME DOWN, TOO
CRASH!
YOU TWO AGAIN! WELL, I'M GLAD YOU SHOWED UP! WE NEED YOU AT THIS PRACTICE, TOO.
COACH
Shortly after—
BAM!
POW!
ACE AND STOOGE MAKE PRETTY GOOD DUMMIES, DON'T THEY, FREDDY?
THEY SURE DO, COACH! THEY SURE DO!

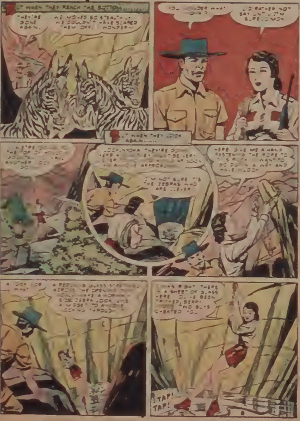
NYOKA the JUNGLE GIRL and The MYSTERY OF The HOLLOW MOUNTAIN

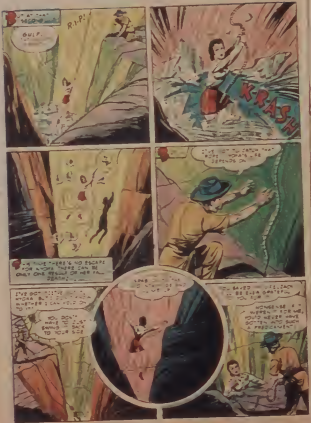

Pigmy zebras are an attraction any circus owner would pay a fortune to locate! But how is it possible to see pigmy zebras from the top of the hollow mountain and yet not even find a trace of them at the bottom? That's but one of the many mystifying questions the courageous and daring jungle girl is called upon to answer in THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLLOW MOUNTAIN!
NYOKA'S AFRICAN JUNGLE GIFT SHOP......
JACK BERRY! WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT TO THE JUNGLES?
MY CIRCUS, NYOKA. I'M SEARCHING FOR SOME NEW WILD ANIMALS AND I STOPPED BY HOPING YOU'D GUIDE ME THROUGH THE JUNGLE!
I WISH I COULD, JACK, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I'VE BOOKED PASSAGE BACK TO THE STATES AND THE SHIP LEAVES TOMORROW EVENING.
OH, THAT'S TOO BAD. I SHOULD HAVE LET YOU KNOW I WAS COMING. NOW I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE HUNTERS' CLUB AND GET ANOTHER GUIDE!

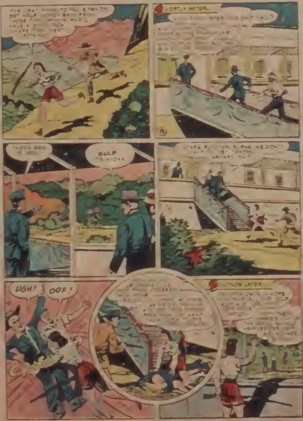

AT THE HUNTERS' CLUB—
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT GUY OVER THERE
I SURE DO, SYNGE! HE'S JACK BERRY, THE OWNER OF THE BERRY-WEBB THREE RING CIRCUS. WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HE'D PROBABLY BE VERY INTERESTED IN
I SURE DO, SYNGE! WE HAVEN'T SOLD THE LOCATION OF THE PIGMY ZEBRAS
PIGMY ZEBRAS
DOLLARS
OF COURSE
B
AFTER BERRY EXPLAINS THE PROPOSITION TO NYOKA.
HEARD OF
SE BACK BEFORE
I'D BE GLAD
MY CURIOSITY HAS BEEN AROUSED.
IF WE'RE
OUR RIFLES
AT THE WINDOW
THAT'S FINE

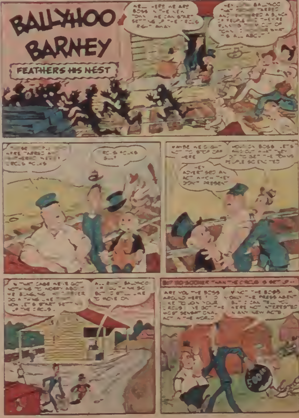

UGH!
GIFT SHOP
CONK!
LATER

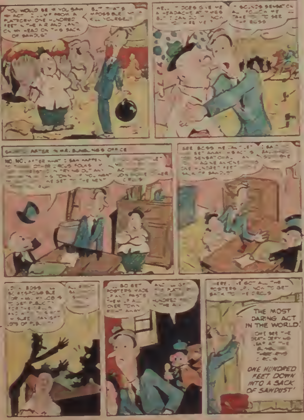

LATER, ON TOP OF HOLLOW

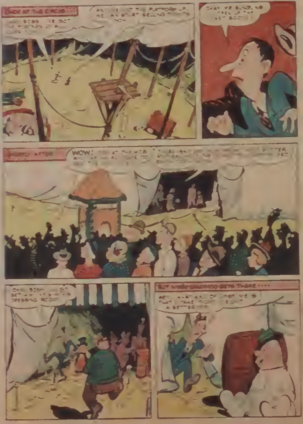

...WHEN THEY REACH THE BOTTOM......
THEY'RE GONE AGAIN.
WE MOVED SO STEALTHILY WE COULDN'T HAVE SCARED THEM OFF. I WONDER—
YOU WONDER WHAT, [illegible]?
I'D RATHER NOT SAY UNTIL I'M SURE, NORA
...WHEN THEY LOOK AGAIN......
WE'RE [illegible] THE TOP OF [illegible] ANOTHER [illegible]
LOOK, NORA. THEY'RE [illegible] AS SOON AS WE APPROACH.
I'M NOT SURE IT'S THE ZEBRAS WHO ARE CLEVER
HERE, GIVE ME A HAND. FASTEN THIS ROPE TO [illegible] I WANT TO GO DOWN A WAY AND HAVE A LOOK
A LOOK FOR WHAT?
A RECTANGLE OF GLASS STRETCHED ACROSS THE OPENING [illegible] HAVE A MIRROR [illegible] ZEBRA LOOK LIKE A [illegible] GOING THROUGH
I WAS RIGHT! THERE'S A SHEET OF GLASS HERE. YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED, [illegible] AND [illegible] CHEATED YOU
TAP! TAP!

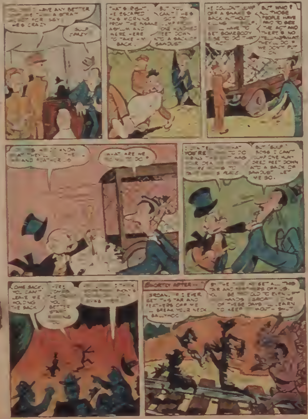

BUT AT THAT SECOND
GULP.
R-I-P!
KRASH
I'VE GOT TO CATCH THAT ROPE... NYORA'S LIFE DEPENDS ON
IF THIS TIME THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR NYORA THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE RESULT OF HER FALL... DEATH!
I'VE GOT [illegible] NYORA BUT [illegible] WHETHER I CAN HOLD ON TO IT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO [illegible] SWING [illegible] BACK TO YOUR SIDE
GRAB [illegible]
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, JACK [illegible] BE EVER GRATEFUL TO YOU
NONSENSE [illegible] WEREN'T FOR ME, YOU'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN INTO SUCH A PREDICAMENT

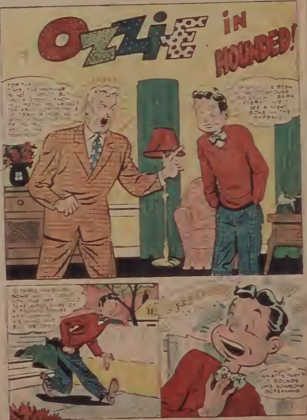

GULP
UGH!
OOF!

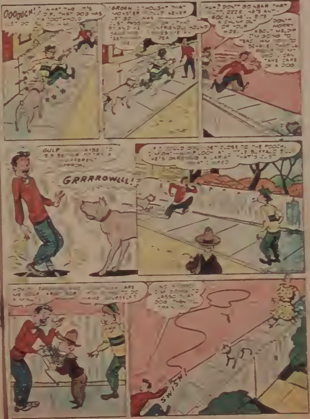

BALLYHOO BARNEY
FEATHERS HIS NEST
AH— HERE WE ARE BOSS IN THE NEW TOWN. WE CAN START SETTING UP THE CIRCUS RIGHT AWAY
HEY LOOK BALLYHOO, THAT GROUP TARRED AND FEATHERED A BUNCH OF PEOPLE. I THINK THEY'RE RUNNING THEM OUT OF TOWN. I WONDER WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT
THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE TARRED AND FEATHERED WERE CIRCUS FOLKS
CIRCUS FOLKS, EH?
MAYBE WE OUGHT NOT TO STOP OFF HERE
HOLD ON BOSS. LET'S FIND OUT WHAT THEY DID TO GET THE TOWNS PEOPLE SO EXCITED
THEY ADVERTISED AN ACT WHICH THEY DIDN'T PRESENT
IN THAT CASE WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WE WOULD NEVER DO A THING LIKE THAT. COME ON, LET'S START SETTING UP THE CIRCUS.
ALL RIGHT, BALLYHOO, IF YOU THINK SO. BUT I STILL LIKE TO MOVE ON
BUT NO SOONER THAN THE CIRCUS IS SET UP—
ARE YOU THE BOSS AROUND HERE? I'D LIKE TO JOIN YOUR CIRCUS. I'VE GOT THE MOST SENSATIONAL ACT IN THE WORLD
I'M NOT THE BOSS. I'M ONLY THE PRESS AGENT. BUT I CAN TELL YOU WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ANY NEW ACTS.
500 lbs

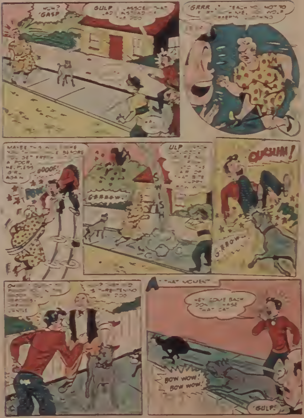

YOU WOULD BE IF YOU SAW MY ACT — JUMP FROM A PLATFORM ONE HUNDRED FEET IN THE AIR AND LAND ON MY HEAD ON THE SACK OF SAWDUST
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE [illegible] YOURSELF!
WELL, IT DOES GIVE ME A HEADACHE AT TIMES BUT I CAN DO IT [illegible] ME?
IT SOUNDS SENSATIONAL [illegible] TAKE YOU TO SEE THE BOSS
SHORTLY AFTER IN MR. BLABLING'S OFFICE
NO, NO, AFTER WHAT I SAW HAPPEN TO THREE OTHER CIRCUS FOLKS [illegible] TRYING OUT AN [illegible] THIS TOWN [illegible] YOU WANT [illegible] THE NEXT [illegible]
[illegible] JOIN SOME OTHER CIRCUS
SEE, BOSS, HE CAN'T [illegible] SET AWAY [illegible] SENSATIONAL [illegible] ONE HUNDRED FEET [illegible] SACK OF SAWDUST
[illegible]
[illegible] BOSS [illegible] RESPONSIBLE [illegible] TO GET PUBLICITY FOR THE CIRCUS [illegible] LOTS OF PUBLICITY
ALL RIGHT [illegible]
SO GET POSTERS MADE [illegible] AND PASTE THEM UP ALL OVER TOWN RIGHT AWAY
AND [illegible] HUNDRED FEET IN THE AIR
HERE, WE GOT ALL THE POSTERS UP. NOW TO GET BACK TO THE CIRCUS
THE MOST DARING ACT IN THE WORLD!
COME SEE THE DEATH-DEFYING LEAP AT THE [illegible] CIRCUS
ONE HUNDRED FEET DOWN INTO A SACK OF SAWDUST'

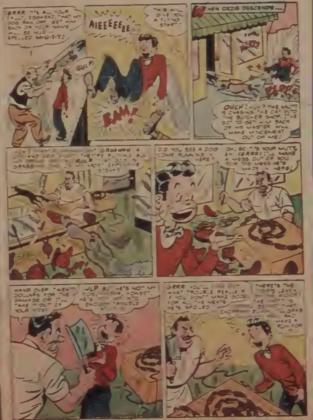

BACK AT THE CIRCUS—
SHORTLY AFTER
WOW!
BUT WHEN GETS THERE ····

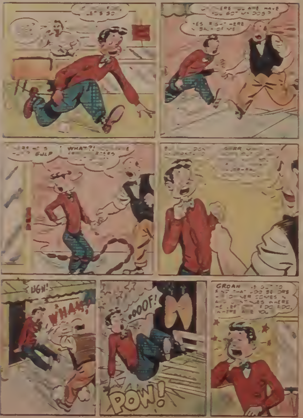

HAVE ANY BETTER ... A STRAIT ... FOR ... HE'S CRAZY
CRAZY?
THAT'S RIGHT. HE ESCAPED THIS MORNING FROM THE INSANE ASYLUM AND WE'RE HERE TO TAKE HIM BACK.
BUT YOU CAN'T! HE'S GOT TO JUMP ... ONE HUNDRED FEET DOWN INTO A SACK OF SAWDUST
HE COULDN'T JUMP OFF A SNAKE'S BACK WITHOUT ... HAVE TO GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO THAT ACT
BUT WHO? ALL THOSE PEOPLE HAVE PAID TO SEE THE ACT AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY'LL DO IF WE DON'T PUT IT ON.
... THEY'LL ... TAR AND FEATHER US
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
YOU'RE ... TO DO ... YOU'RE GOING TO ...
BUT 'SKIP' BOSS I CAN'T JUMP ONE HUNDRED FEET DOWN INTO A SACK OF SAWDUST. LET ME GO.
COME BACK. YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HOLDING THE SACK
HERE COMES THE ... YOU BETTER START RUNNING
SHORTLY AFTER --
SKOAL. IF I EVER GET THIS TAR AND FEATHERS OFF ME I'LL BREAK YOUR NECK BALLYHOO
BY THE TIME WE GET ALL THIS TAR AND FEATHERS OFF US, YOU'LL BE TOO OLD TO ... HANDS ... ONE OF THESE DAYS ... LEARN TO KEEP ... MOUTH SHUT.


OZZIE
IN HOUNDED!
WHAT'S THAT? ... SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE SCREAMING

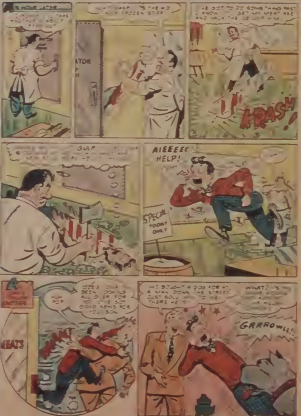

OOOOUCH!
GROAN
DON'T WORRY
TAKE CARE OF A DOG
GULP
GRRRROWLLL!
SWISH!


HUH? 'GASP
GULP
'GRRR
OOOOF!
POW
GRRROW!
SWISH
ULP
OUCHH!
GRROW
AT THAT MOMENT
HEY, COME BACK ... CHASE THAT CAT
BOW WOW! BOW WOW!
'GULP!

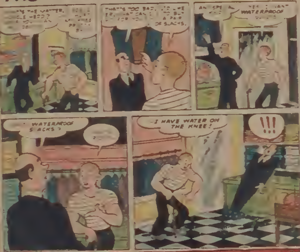

GRRR — IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, EGGHEAD, THAT MY DOG RAN OFF. GET HIM BACK OR YOUR NAME WILL BE MUD — SPELLED M-U-T-T!
GULP!
AIEEEEEEEE
THIS WILL GIVE YOU A FLYING START!
BAM!
WHEN OZZIE DESCENDS—
PLOP!
OUCH! ...AND THE MUTT'S CHASING THE CAT INTO THE BUTCHER SHOP. I'VE GOT TO GET HIM BACK OR HIS MASTER WILL MAKE MINCEMEAT OUT OF ME!
[illegible] AND [illegible] SGABB
GROANNN A [illegible] GULP [illegible] MY MOST EXPENSIVE STEAKS
DID YOU SEE A DOG COME RUNNING IN HERE?
OH, SO IT'S YOUR MUTT, EH (GRRR)! I'LL MAKE A MESS OUT OF YOU FOR THE MESS HE'S MADE IN HERE!
HAND OVER TWENTY DOLLARS FOR THE DAMAGE OR I'LL TAKE IT OUT OF YOUR HIDE!
GULP! BUT HE'S NOT MY DOG, MISTER, HONEST. HE'S [illegible] INTO ENOUGH TROUBLE [illegible]
GRRR YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT TROUBLE REALLY IS IF YOU DON'T MAKE GOOD FOR ALL THE MEATS HE'S SPOILED
THERE'S THE [illegible] CHOPPER [illegible] GRAB AND MAKE A RUN FOR [illegible]


LET'S GO
OH, THERE YOU ARE. HAVE YOU GOT MY DOG?
YES, RIGHT HERE IN BACK OF ME.
GULP
WHAT?!
GRRR
UGH!
WHAM!
OOOF!
POW!
GROAN
FIDO! FIDO!
WHERE ARE YOU

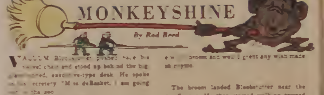
REFRIGERATOR
KEEP CLOSED
HIDE IN THIS NEAT REFRIGERATOR. THEY'LL NEVER THINK OF LOOKING FOR ME IN HERE
SNAP!
BOW WOW! BOW WOW
HERE YOU ARE, REX


AN HOUR LATER...
ATOR
KRASH!
GULP
AIEEEEE
HELP!
SPECIAL
TODAY
ONLY
MEATS
GOOD NEWS FOR YOU SON
A DOG FOR
A MAN DOWN THE STREET
JUST SOLD
THERE HE IS
WHAT.
GRRROWL!!

MUSCLE HEAD IS WATERPROOF


...'S THE MATTER, ...SCLE HEAD?
THAT'S TOO BAD.
A PAIR OF SLACKS.
WATERPROOF
WATERPROOF SLACKS?
I HAVE WATER ON THE KNEE!
!!!

THERE IS ALWAYS ACTION, ADVENTURE, MYSTERY!
MONTE HALE WESTERN!
MONTH AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND



MONKEYSHINE

By Rod Reed

WILLIAM Bloobstutter pushed back his swivel chair and stood up behind the big glass-topped, executive-type desk. He spoke to his secretary. "Miss deBasket, I am going out to the zoo."

"Oh goody," she exclaimed. "Are you going out there to see that new $100,000 monkey?"

"Well, no," said the little man with dignity. "I may take a glance at the monkey, but I'm really going out to the zoo on business."

As general manager of the U. S. Hole-Making Corporation, the largest manufacturer of holes in the whole world, Mr. Bloobstutter felt it wouldn't be wise to have his employees think that he was taking the afternoon off for a pleasure jaunt to the zoo. So he added, "I'm going to see if I can get the contract to supply the zoo with new sets of gopher holes and woodchuck holes. The old ones should be nearly worn out by now."

"Yes, sir," said Miss deBasket. "Shall I call a cab for you?"

"Oh—no," said Bloobstutter, picking up the broom that stood always in the corner beside his desk. "I'll fly out."

The secretary gazed and gulped and said, "Fly?" with a rising inflection. But Bloob had already passed through the door. Miss deBasket shrugged. She thought it strange. She had never heard of any airline that would take a passenger the few blocks from midtown out to the zoo. But her boss frequently said things that puzzled her so she merely shrugged, said to herself, "Maybe he's got a helicopter," and went back to her typing.

She would have been more than startled had she seen what Bloobstutter was doing at that very moment. Holding the broom firmly he was intoning,

"Broom, I wish to fly with you.
Take me right out to the zoo."

At once the broom took off and headed for the zoo, carrying the little man astride. It was a witch's broom and would grant any wish made in rhyme.

The broom landed Bloobstutter near the giraffe pen. He then started walking toward the woodchuck cage and was secretly pleased to find it next to the cage for the new, rare $100,000 monkey. He was surprised to find only a keeper on hand—no spectators. "We aren't letting any of the customers in till three o'clock," explained the keeper. "We want to give Godfrey Hope a chance to get used to his new cage."

"Godfrey Hope?" Bloobstutter was staring at the monkey.

"Yes. I nicknamed him that because he's worth so much money," said the keeper.

"Well, I want to inspect the woodchuck holes, and I may as well do it now before all the people come in," said Bloobstutter. "Okay?"

"Sure. Just lift the latch and go right in," said the keeper. "Excuse me. I've got to go after some food for Godfrey."

Bloob opened the cage door and all the woodchucks dived into their holes out of sight. "I'll just reach into one of these holes and see how the inside walls are holding up," thought Bloob, suiting the action to the idea. One second later he was looking at a bleeding finger. One of the animals had nipped him. Bloob retreated from the cage and latched the door.

He stood for a moment, gazing in thoughtful silence. Then an idea struck him. "Perhaps if I got into the monkey's cage I could get a close enough look at the woodchuck holes without the danger of being nipped by a woodchuck." He unlatched the monkey house door. Godfrey sprang forward, pushed past the man, and ran outside, chattering happily at getting his freedom. "Hey, come back!" yelled the little man, running after him. But Godfrey made for the nearest tree, climbed it, and perched, nearly hidden among the leaves, chattering and mocking at Bloobstutter.

Bloob heard footsteps, human footsteps. Panic seized him. "It's the keeper coming back," he thought. "He'll blame me for letting that $100,000 monkey get away!" Acting on impulse, Bloob leaped into the monkey cage, carrying the broom with him. At the same time he said,

"I wish I was a monk!
Otherwise I'm sunk."

The witch broom changed him at once into a monkey.

But the approaching footsteps did not herald the return of the keeper. Instead monkey Bloobstutter now saw two big tough-looking men approaching the cage. He recognized them at once as the notorious kidnappers, Natch and Snatch. One carried a big automatic pistol, and the other held a large burlap bag.

"Wait in back, Snatch," said Natch.

"Yah, Natch, the cage is unlocked," responded Snatch.

They opened the door. In panic, Bloob started to make a wish for his broom, but his voice came out, "Cheek cheek chatter gich-cheeee." Being a monkey, he couldn't speak English. Snatch popped the bag over his head and muffled any further sounds. The two gangsters carried Bloob away and threw him into the back seat of a high-powered ebony limousine.

"Funny how that monkey keeps hanging onto that broom," observed Natch.

"Sometimes they almost act human," chuckled Snatch.

When the bag was removed, Bloobstutter, still a monkey, found himself in a cheaply furnished bedroom. There was an old iron bed, a table, a couple of straight chairs, and a small radio. Natch was twirling his automatic while Snatch fiddled with the radio knobs.

"First time we ever kidnapped a monkey," chuckled Natch. "He doesn't look like he's worth $100,000 to me."

"Maybe not, but we ought to get at least $50,000 ransom," said Snatch. "I'll tune in the news and see if they're offering a reward."

The radio hummed for a moment, warming up, then from the speaker came the words:

... and here's news from the zoo. Officials had some anxious moments today when the new $100,000 monkey, Godfrey Hope, escaped from his cage. But the animal was discovered in a nearby tree and he returned peacefully to his cage when the keeper offered him food. It seems that ...

Snatch angrily clicked off the radio. "Hang it," he cried. "We got the wrong monkey!"

"I told you this one didn't look worth $100,000," growled Natch.

"He's no good at all," responded Snatch. "What'll we do with him?"

"Shoot him," answered Natch, levelling his automatic.

Poor Bloobstutter. He tried to cry out, "No, no, don't shoot me. I'm not a monkey." But the words that came from him sounded like "choo-chee-cuaa-chub!"

In desperation he clutched the broom. He yelled in his high pitched, monkey voice:

"Kik-kik choo-chatter uk-uk eee
G-g-gook ug chow-chow chudda choo!"

Luckily the witch broom could understand all languages, including monkey. It easily translated what Bloob said into:

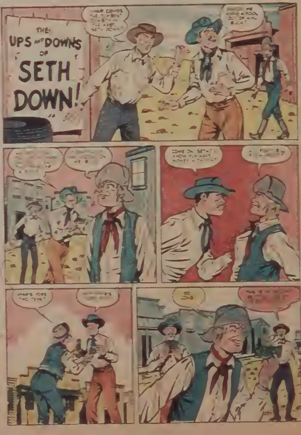
"To die like this is not my plan!
I wish again I were a man!"

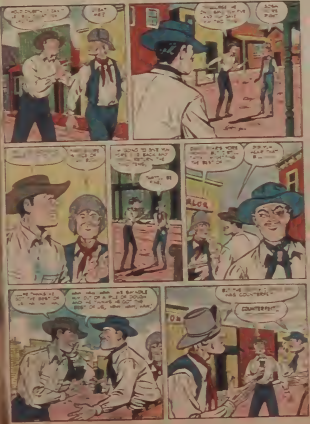
Zoope! The monkey disappeared, and in his place stood Bloobstutter, holding a broom. The shock was too much for the kidnappers and both fainted. Bloobstutter phoned the police and Natch and Snatch were carted off to jail, both still unconscious.

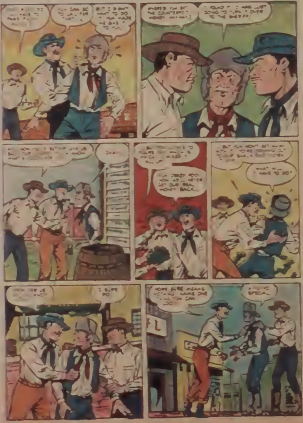
WHEN Miss deBasket arrived at work the next morning, she said to her boss, "There was quite a bit of excitement at the zoo yesterday, eh, Mr. Bloobstutter?"

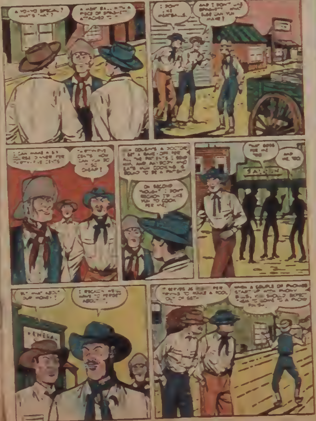
"Ah-yes," he replied. "In fact, it interfered with my work. Please remind me those woodchuck holes still need inspecting. I'll—ah—send out an assistant."

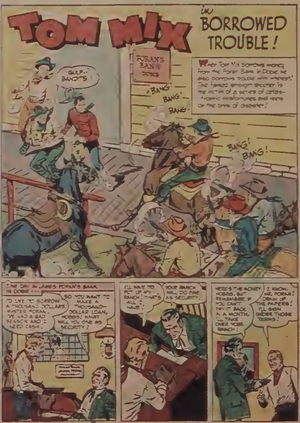
THE END

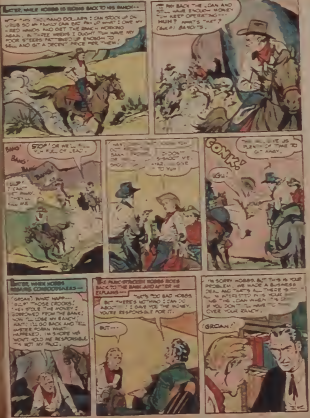

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SETH DOWN!

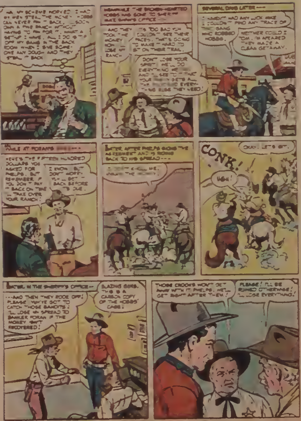

THAT'LL BE FINE.
DID YOU HEAR THAT
AND HE THINKS HE GOT THE BEST OF US, HAW HAW, HAW!
WAS COUNTERFEIT
COUNTERFEIT

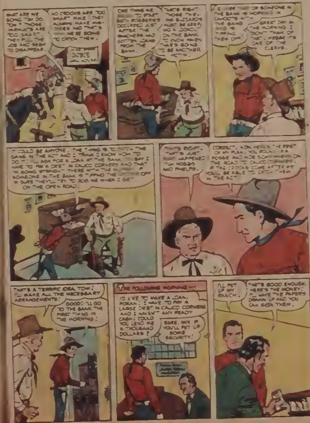

YOU CAN GO TO JAIL FOR THAT!
WHERE'D YOU GET THE COUNTERFEIT MONEY ANYWAY?
I FOUND IT. I WAS JUST GOING TO TURN IT OVER TO THE SHERIFF!
YOU CRAZY FOOL NOW WE'LL NEVER GET OUR REAL MONEY BACK.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
I SURE DO
YOU'RE SURE MEANS NOTHING
SPECIAL

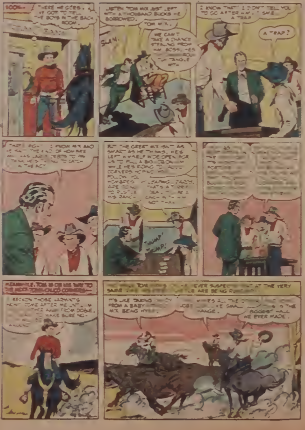

A YO-YO SPECIAL? WHAT'S THAT?
A MEAT BALL WITH A PIECE OF SPAGHETTI ATTACHED TO IT.
I DON'T LIKE MEATBALLS.
AND I DON'T LIKE SPAGHETTI! WHAT ELSE CAN YOU MAKE?
I CAN MAKE A BIG CHICKEN DINNER FOR TWENTY-FIVE CENTS
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS? HOW CAN YOU DO IT SO CHEAP!
MY COUSIN'S A DOCTOR. HE GETS A SHARE OF THE FEE FROM THE PATIENTS I SEND HIM, AND ANYBODY WHO EATS MY COOKING IS BOUND TO BE A PATIENT
ON SECOND THOUGHT I DON'T RECKON I'D LIKE YOU TO COOK FOR ME.
THAT GOES FOR ME TOO
AND ME TOO!
SALOON
BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR MONEY?
I RECKON WE'LL HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT IT.
IT SERVES US RIGHT FOR TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF SETH.
WHEN A COUPLE OF PHONIES START UP WITH PHONY BUSINESS, YOU SHOULD EXPECT THEM TO COME TO A PHONY FINISH.

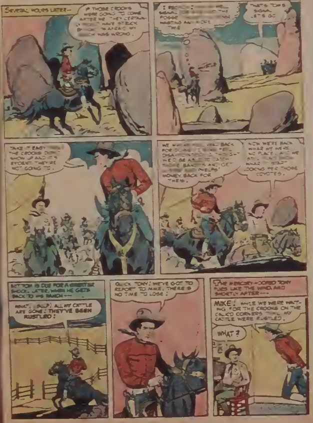

TOM MIX
in
BORROWED TROUBLE!
When Tom Mix borrows money from the Foran Bank in Dobie, he also borrows trouble with interest! The famed straight shooter is the victim of a series of catastrophic misfortunes and teeters on the brink of disaster!
FORAN'S BANK DOBIE
GULP.. BANDITS
BANG!
BANG!
BANG.
BANG!
BANG!
ONE DAY IN JAMES FORAN'S BANK IN DOBIE...
I'D LIKE TO BORROW A THOUSAND DOLLARS, MISTER FORAN. I'VE HAD A BAD SEASON AND I NEED CASH.
SO YOU WANT TO MAKE A THOUSAND-DOLLAR LOAN, HOBBS! WHAT WILL YOU GIVE AS SECURITY?
I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP MY RANCH! THAT'S ALL I HAVE!
YOUR RANCH WILL DO FINE AS SECURITY.
HERE'S THE MONEY HOBBS. BUT REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN'T PAY IT BACK IN A MONTH, I'LL TAKE OVER YOUR RANCH!
I KNOW, MR. FORAN! DRAW UP THE PAPERS! I'LL SIGN UNDER THOSE TERMS!

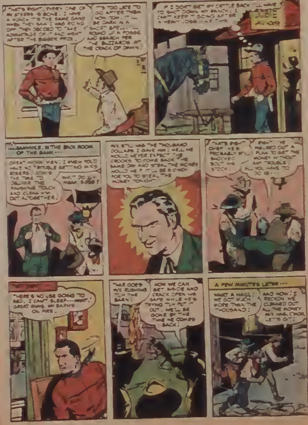

LATER, WHILE HOBBS IS RIDING BACK TO HIS RANCH--
WITH TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS I CAN STOCK UP ON GRUB SO MY FAMILY CAN EAT, PAY UP WHAT I OWE MY HIRED HANDS, AND GET THE RANCH WORKING AGAIN. IN THREE WEEKS I OUGHT TUH HAVE MY POOR STEERS FATTENED UP ENOUGH TO SELL AND GIT A DECENT PRICE FER THEM!
AN' PAY BACK THE LOAN AND STILL HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TUH KEEP OPERATING--- HUH? WHAT'S THAT? (GASP) BANDITS.
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
STOP! OR WE'LL FILL YUH FULL OF LEAD.
GULP! I CAN'T GET AWAY. THEY'LL KILL ME
HAND OVER THAT DOUGH YUH GOT FROM THE BANK OR WE'LL SHOOT
D-DON'T S-SHOOT ME. H-HERE, I'LL GIVE IT TO YUH!
CONK!
THIS WILL GIVE US PLENTY OF TIME TO GIT AWAY.
UGH!
LATER, WHEN HOBBS REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS—
(GROAN) WHAT HAPP--- (GULP) THOSE CROOKS! THEY STOLE THE MONEY I BORROWED FROM THE BANK! NOW I'LL LOSE MY RANCH! WAIT! I'LL GO BACK AND TELL MISTER FORAN WHAT HAPPENED. I'M SHORE HE WON'T HOLD ME RESPONSIBLE. IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
THE PANIC-STRICKEN HOBBS GOES BACK TO THE BANK AND AFTER HE EXPLAINS—
THAT'S TOO BAD HOBBS BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT. I GAVE YOU THE MONEY. YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.
BUT---
I'M SORRY HOBBS, BUT THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM. WE MADE A BUSINESS DEAL AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT. I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR PAYING THE LOAN WHEN IT'S DUE. IF YOU DON'T I'LL HAVE TO TAKE OVER YOUR RANCH.
(GROAN!)

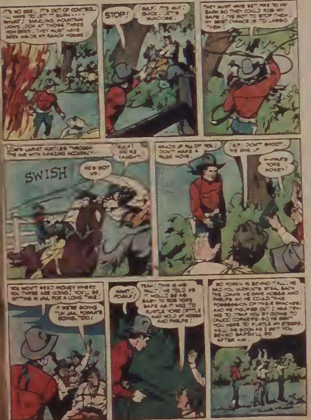

HA, MY SCHEME WORKED. I HAD MY MEN STEAL THE MONEY. HOBBS CAN NEVER PAY IT BACK. I'LL SOON OWN A FINE RANCH WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY FOR IT. WHAT A SET-UP I HAVE. ALL I DO IS TIP OFF MY GANG IN THE BACK ROOM WHEN I GIVE SOME-ONE ANY DOUGH AND THEY STEAL IT BACK
MEANWHILE THE BROKEN-HEARTED HOBBS HAS GONE TO SHERIFF [illegible] OFFICE ---
AND THEY TOOK THE MONEY. NOW I'LL LOSE MY RANCH.
IT'S TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T SEE THEIR FACES. THAT'S GOING TO MAKE IT HARD TO GET ON THEIR TRAIL.
DON'T LOSE YOUR SPIRIT! WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN. AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOUR FAMILY GETS ALL THE FOOD AND EVERYTHING ELSE THEY NEED.
SEVERAL DAYS LATER ---
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY LUCK MIKE. I COULDN'T FIND ANY TRACE OF THAT GANG WHO ROBBED HOBBS.
NEITHER COULD I TOM. I'M AFRAID THEY MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY.
WHILE AT FORAN'S [illegible] ---
HERE'S THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS YOU ASKED FOR PHELPS. BUT REMEMBER IF YOU DON'T PAY IT BACK ON TIME I'LL TAKE OVER YOUR RANCH!
I KNOW. BUT DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL GET IT BACK BEFORE IT'S DUE.
LATER AFTER PHELPS SIGNS THE AGREEMENT AND IS RIDING BACK TO HIS SPREAD ---
D-DON'T K-KILL ME. HERE'S THE MONEY.
CONK!
UGH!
OKAY. LET'S GIT.
LATER, IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE --
---AND THEN THEY RODE OFF! PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO CATCH THOSE BANDITS! I'LL LOSE MY SPREAD TO BANKER FORAN IF THE MONEY ISN'T RECOVERED!
BLAZING GUNS. THIS IS A CARBON COPY OF THE HOBBS' CASE!
THOSE CROOKS WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT PHELPS. WE'LL GET RIGHT AFTER THEM!
PLEASE! I'LL BE RUINED OTHERWISE! I'LL LOSE EVERYTHING!

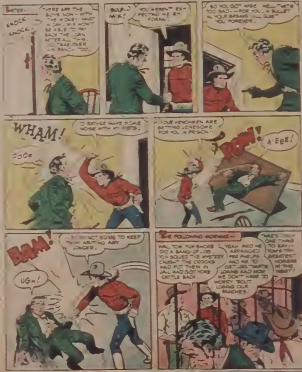

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, TOM? THOSE VARMINTS ARE TOO SMART. THEY PULL THE JOB AND SEEM TO DISAPPEAR.
NO CROOKS ARE TOO SMART, MIKE. THEY ALWAYS MAKE MISTAKES AND THAT'S WHEN WE'RE GOING TO CATCH THEM.
ONE THING WE HAVE TO START ON. BOTH ROBBERIES OCCURRED JUST AFTER THE RANCHERS HAD GOTTEN LOANS FROM THE BANK.
THAT'S RIGHT. THOSE THIEVING BUZZARDS MUST BE KEEPING A LOOKOUT ON THE BANK TO KNOW WHEN THERE'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER VICTIM.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE IN THE BANK IS WORKING IN CAHOOTS WITH THE GANG AND IS TIPPING THEM OFF.
GREAT DAY IN THE MORNING! I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT. MEBBE IT'S ONE OF THE CLERKS.
IT COULD BE ANYONE. THE THING IS TO CATCH THE GANG IN THE ACT AND I THINK I KNOW HOW TO DO IT! I'LL ASK FOR A LOAN AT THE BANK. I'LL SAY I HAVE TO PAY A DEBT IN CALICO CORNERS AND THAT I'M GOING STRAIGHT THERE WITH THE MONEY. IF SOMEONE IN THE BANK IS TIPPING THE CROOKS OFF I'M SURE THEY'LL TRY TO ROB ME WHEN I GET ON THE OPEN ROAD.
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO HOBBS AND PHELPS.
CORRECT. NOW HERE'S THE REST OF MY PLAN. YOU ROUND UP A POSSE AND HIDE SOMEWHERE ON THE ROAD TO CALICO CORNERS. IF THE CROOKS COME AFTER ME YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH THEM IN THE ACT.
THAT'S A TERRIFIC IDEA, TOM! I'LL MAKE ALL THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS!
GOOD! I'LL GO TO THE BANK THE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
THE FOLLOWING MORNING —
I'D LIKE TO MAKE A LOAN, FORAN! I HAVE TO PAY A LARGE DEBT IN CALICO CORNERS AND I HAVEN'T ANY READY CASH! COULD YOU LEND ME A THOUSAND DOLLARS?
SURE, MIX, IF YOU'LL PUT UP SOME SECURITY!
I'LL PUT UP MY RANCH.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH. HERE'S THE MONEY! I'LL HAVE THE PAPERS DRAWN UP AND YOU CAN SIGN THEM.

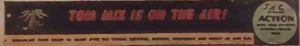

SOON—
THERE HE GOES. WE GOT TO TELL THE BOYS IN THE BACK ROOM.
LISTEN, TOM MIX JUST LEFT WITH A THOUSAND BUCKS HE BORROWED.
TOM MIX.
SLAM.
WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE STEALING FROM MY BOSS. HE'S [illegible] TANGLE WITH.
I KNOW THAT! I DON'T TELL YOU TO GO AFTER HIM. I SMELL A TRAP
A TRAP?
THAT'S RIGHT. I KNOW MIX AND HE AIN'T THE KIND OF HOMBRE WHO HAS LARGE DEBTS TO PAY. I THINK HE'S TRYING TO CATCH US IN THE ACT.
BUT THE GREAT MIX ISN'T AS SMART AS HE THINKS. HE'S LEFT HIS RANCH WIDE OPEN FOR US TO PULL A BIG JOB ON HIM WHILE HE'S GOING TO [illegible] CORNERS HOPING WE'LL FOLLOW HIM.
HORSES [illegible] LEAPING LIZARDS, ARE YOU [illegible] THAT'S A TERRIFIC IDEA. TO RUSTLE [illegible] HIS RANCH [illegible] WITH HIM NOT THAT.
THUMP! THUMP!
[illegible] AS [illegible] THE [illegible] FORTUNE [illegible]
MEANWHILE, TOM IS ON HIS WAY TO THE NEXT TOWN, OLCO CORNERS—
RECKON THOSE VARMINTS WON'T COME AFTER ME UNTIL I'M FURTHER AWAY FROM DOBIE. [illegible] MAKE SURE NO- [illegible]
BUT WHILE TOM [illegible] HE NEVER SUSPECTS THAT AT THE VERY SAME TIME [illegible] CATTLE ARE BEING RUSTLED—
IT'S LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY [illegible] MIX BEING AWAY.
[illegible] MAKES ALL THE [illegible] JOBS LOOK LIKE SMALL CHANGE.
THIS IS THE BIGGEST HAUL WE EVER MADE.

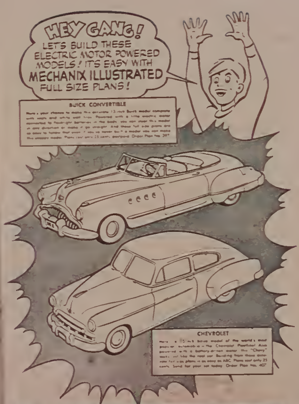

SEVERAL HOURS LATER—
IF THOSE CROOKS WERE GOING TO COME AFTER ME THEY CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE STRUCK BY NOW. I'M AFRAID MY HUNCH WAS WRONG.
I RECKON I [illegible] SIGNAL FOR [illegible] THE POSSE [illegible] WASTING ANY MORE TIME
THAT'S TOM'S SIGNAL. LET'S GO
TAKE IT EASY [illegible] THE CROOKS DIDN'T SHOW UP AND IT'S EVIDENT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO.
WE [illegible] HEAD BACK FOR [illegible] DISAPPOINTED [illegible] WE'D BE ABLE TO CATCH THOSE BANDITS AND GET [illegible] PHELPS' MONEY BACK FOR THEM.
NOW WE'RE BACK WHERE WE WERE. NO PLACE. AND WE [illegible] WHAT [illegible] START LOOKING FOR THOSE COYOTES.
BUT TOM IS DUE FOR A GREATER SHOCK. LATER, WHEN HE GETS BACK TO HIS RANCH---
WHAT, (GULP) ALL MY CATTLE ARE GONE! THEY'VE BEEN RUSTLED!
QUICK TONY! WE'VE GOT TO REPORT TO MIKE. THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
THE MERCURY-HOOFED TONY FLIES LIKE THE WIND, AND SHORTLY AFTER---
MIKE! WHILE WE WERE WAITING FOR THE CROOKS ON THE CALICO CORNERS [illegible] MY CATTLE WERE RUSTLED.
WHAT?


THAT'S RIGHT. EVERY ONE OF MY STEERS IS GONE. I HAVE A HUNCH IT'S THE SAME GANG WHEN THEY SAW I WAS GOING OFF THEY DECIDED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT AND WENT AFTER THE BIGGER PRIZE.
IT'S TOO LATE TO GO AFTER THEM NOW TOM. IT'LL BE DARK IN A SHORT SPELL... ROUND UP A POSSE AND SEARCH FER THE BUZZARDS AT THE CRACK OF DAWN.
IF I DON'T GET MY CATTLE BACK I'LL HAVE TO SHUT DOWN MY RANCH. I CAN'T KEEP IT GOING AFTER A HEAVY LOSS LIKE THIS.
MEANWHILE, IN THE BACK ROOM OF THE BANK...
GREAT WORK MEN. I KNEW YOU'D HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING MIX'S STEERS. NOW'S THE TIME TO DELIVER THE FINISHING TOUCH AND CLEAN HIM OUT ALTOGETHER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BOSS?
MIX STILL HAS THE THOUSAND DOLLARS I GAVE HIM. WELL HE WOULD NEVER EXPECT THE CROOKS TO COME BACK THE SAME DAY AND STEAL THE MONEY WOULD HE? IT'LL BE A CINCH FOR YOU TO STEAL THE MONEY TONIGHT
THAT'S RIGHT CHIEF. HE'S PROBABLY STILL SHOCKED 'BOUT HIS STOCK.
RIGHT. I'VE FIGURED OUT A PLAN TO GET THE MONEY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS...
THAT NIGHT
THERE'S NO USE GOING TO BED. I CAN'T SLEEP---WHAT! GREAT GUNS, MY BARN'S ON FIRE.
THAR GOES MIX RUSHING TUH THE BARN.
NOW WE CAN GET INSIDE AND CRACK OPEN HIS SAFE WHILE HE'S TRYING TUH PUT IT OUT. WE'LL BE GONE BY THE TIME HE COMES BACK!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WHAT A HAUL! WE GOT MUCH MORE THAN THE THOUSAND!
AND HOW! I RECKON WE CLEANED OUT ALL THE MONEY MIX HAS. CHICK, LET'S GO!


IT'S NO USE. IT'S OUT OF CONTROL. I HAVE TO LET IT BURN---- WHAT! SNARLING MOUNTAIN LIONS. LOOK AT THOSE THREE HOMBRES. THEY MUST HAVE BEEN INSIDE MY RANCH HOUSE.
STOP!
GULP! IT'S MIX! QUICK. LET'S VAMOOSE.
THEY MUST HAVE SET FIRE TO MY BARN SO THEY COULD ROB MY SAFE! I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM. MY BEST CHANCE IS TO LASSO THEM.
TOM'S LARIAT HURTLES THROUGH THE AIR WITH AMAZING ACCURACY...
GULP! WE'RE CAUGHT.
SWISH
HE'S GOT US.
HANDS UP ALL OF YOU! DON'T MAKE A FALSE MOVE.
GULP. DON'T SHOOT. WE GIVE UP
WHERE'S YORE MONEY!
YOU WON'T NEED MONEY WHERE YOU THREE ARE GOING. YOU'LL BE SITTING IN JAIL FOR A LONG TIME!
IF WE'RE GOING T'UH JAIL, FOGAN'S GOING, TOO!
WHAT! FOGAN!
YEAH! THIS IS HIS FAULT. HE TOLD US IT WOULD BE AS EASY TO ROB YORE SAFE AS IT WAS TO RUSTLE YORE CATTLE AND HOLD UP HOBBS AND PHELPS!
SO FOGAN IS BEHIND IT ALL. HE HAD YOU VARMINTS STEAL BACK THE LOANS HE GAVE HOBBS AND PHELPS SO HE COULD TAKE POSSESSION OF THEIR RANCHES! AND HE FIGURED OUT I WAS TRYING TO TRAP YOU BY GOING TO CHUCK CORNERS SO HE SENT YOU HERE TO RUSTLE MY STEERS. WELL, AS SOON AS I GET YOU BEHIND BARS, I'LL GO AFTER HIM.


LATER.
KNOCK KNOCK
WHERE ARE THE BOYS NOW--WITH THE MONEY GONE, MIX WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY BACK THE LOAN AFTER ALL THIS. I'LL TAKE OVER HIS RANCH TOO.
GULP..! MIX!
YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING ME, EH FORAN.
SO YOU GOT WISE. WELL, THAT'S TOO BAD---FOR YOU. A BULLET IN YOUR BRAINS WILL QUIET YOU FOREVER.
WHAM!
I'D RATHER MAKE SOME NOISE WITH MY FISTS.
OOOH
YOUR HENCHMEN ARE GETTING LONESOME FOR YOU IN PRISON--
POW!
A'EEE!
BAM!
..BUT I'M NOT GOING TO KEEP THEM WAITING ANY LONGER.
UGH!
THE FOLLOWING MORNING--
WAL, TOM MIX SHORE DID A BANG-UP JOB. YOU SOLVED THE MYSTERY, CAUGHT THE CROOKS AND PUT THEM IN JAIL AND GOT YORE CATTLE BACK.
YEAH AND HE ARRANGED FER PHELPS AND ME TO GET LEGITIMATE LOANS AND NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY 'BOUT LOSING OUR RANCHES!
THAT'S ONLY ONE THING TO SAY-- TOM'S THE GREATEST HOMBRE IN THE WEST!


TOM MIX IS ON THE AIR!
ACTION


HEY GANG!
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